Chicago Coin Club

August, 1985
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Don Valenziano Jr., Editor

Chatter

"We Learn By Teaching"

P.O. BOX 2301/CHICAGO, IL 60690

MEETING

Our meeting will be held August 14th at 7:30pm in Suite 1510, 208 S. Lasalle. A members benefit auction will be featured. Please attend and bring a friend.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2-William Swoger, 7-William Holm, 9-Leonard Stark, 15-Darrell Prince & Richard Yeoman, 16-Mike Williams, 19- Carl Wolf, 22-Gordon Byrd, 23-Thomas Michell, 26-Tom LeForey & Donald Doswell, 31-Clarence Wills & Simeon Wilson.

800TH MEETING BANQUET

Saturday, September 14, 1985

Our 800th Meeting Banquet is one of the largest affairs the Club has planned in many years and much planning is going into making this a memorable event.

The Adams Room of the Midland Hotel will be the site which begins at 6 P.M. with cocktails. Chicken Kiev will be the main course of dinner which will be served at 7 P.M. Margo Russell, Club member and former Coin World editor for many years, will be the featured speaker.

The suppliers of our medal and book have promised that they should be ready for distribution at this milestone event and a variety of custom banquet favors will also compliment the evening. Doorprizes will be the ten books which have been donated by Q. David Bowers, Arthur Kagin and Krause Publications. They are:

Virgil Brand: The Man and His Era

1985 Standard Catalog of World Coins

Standard Catalog of United States Paper Money

History of United States Coinage: As Illustrated by the Garrett Collection

United States Gold Coins: An Illustrated History

Private Gold Coins and Patterns of the United States

Donald Kagin's Personal Guide to Rare Coin Investments

It's an occasion which shouldn't be missed. Formal invitations were mailed last week. If you know of some member who hasn't been to a meeting in some time, then give him or her a telephone call and encourage him to attend. We are expecting a large turnout, so do as some have already done by returning your response card early.

Chicago Coin Club
Minutes of July 10, 1985

The 798th meeting of the Chicago Coin Club was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by President Needleman with 26 members and 6 guests present. The guests for the evening were Phyllis and Jeff Pettit, Jean Hardwidge, Chris Smith, Jean Rzepka and Phyllis Johnson. Also, in attendance were long time members Charlotte Nagy and Leah Klein. The June minutes were read and approved with the following clarifications: Harry X and Tillie Boosel will be subsidizing the cost of the banquet by paying for the cost of the dinner that is in excess of $15 per person and the donations being collected by Charles Ricard and Carl Wolf will be used to purchase extra accessories and memorabilia for the banquet. The Treasurer's Report for June was read and approved. The speaker for the meeting was Bill Pettit, who spoke on Coinage of the Holy Roman Empire Since 1500. The 800th Meeting Medal Report was made with the following motions approved: 1) To limit the medals struck to 175 bronze finish, 75 silver (copper-nickle) finish plus the number of gold and silver medal orders placed with Tom Delorey by July 19; (2) Purchase of gold and silver medals is restricted to CCC members; (3) Preference for the purchase of medals will be given to CCC members until the date of the banquet at which time sale of the medals will be open to the public; (4) Tom was authorized to place the order if he finds everything satisfactory. Delivery is expected two weeks after the order is placed. The changes to the By-Laws announced in the June minutes were approved. The dues increases (mentioned in the June Minutes) were approved with the Board to discuss further the different membership classifications and the requirements of membership. It was announced that you may bring consignments to the Club's August meeting for the auction to be held in conjunction with that meeting. Minimum bids on consignments are acceptable. It was announced that the 800th meeting book is nearly complete and should be ready for the 800th meeting. The 800th Meeting Banquet Report was given with an announcement made that formal invitations will be sent out and that Margo Russell will be the banquet speaker. All members desiring to attend were requested to pay for their tickets in advance. Cost is $15 per person. Harry X Boosel announced that Ruthann Brettell will become the Executive Director of the ANA. The Archival Report covered the Club's activities during National Coin Week in 1954. The exhibitors for the evening were: Bruno Rzepka - 3 Souvenir Cards showing paper money and a sheet of four $1 notes; Andrew Michyeta - 2 Shooting Talers; Saul Needleman - 3 English Coins, 2 of James I and 1 of Charles I; William Baker - a Roman bronze coin of Honorius with facing portrait; Gerald Anaszewicz - 2 cowrie shells and 1 coin of Armavir (Russia); Chester Poderski - 3 pieces advertising the ANA Convention and National Coin Week; Robert Leonard - a "Dime Chain Letter", a deluxe edition of Breen's Look on California Gold and a Krause Publications' dedication souvenir; Harry Flower - 9 pieces of Israel paper money. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Baker
Secretary/Treasurer

WHEN MONEY GREW ON TREES

by Carl F. Wolf

Cacao beans, the source of chocolate, are harvested from pods produced by cacao trees which grow from twenty to forty feet in Mexican soil. The Aztec Indians believed that cacao (Pronounced: ka-KAY-oe) was bestowed on them as a heavenly gift from Quetzalcoatl, the god of air. Evidence shows that by the 12th century they had already converted cacao into a drink called xocolatl. So precious did the Aztec's consider xocolatl that it was reserved for the aristocracy only. Prized even higher than gold, the drink was served in golden goblets which were thrown away after one use.

Christopher Columbus was the first European to come across the cacao beans, but he ignored them. Herman Cortes followed twenty years later and the Aztec's shared with him their prestigious xocolatl beverage. When he returned to Spain in 1528, he carried back cacao beans and introduced the drinking of chocolate to Europe.

To the numismatist, however, Cortes discoved something far more interesting about the cacao beans. The Aztecs used it as currency (about 100 beans would buy a slave). So impressed was Cortes, never one to let money slip between his fingers, he took beans and sowed them on Trinidad, Haiti and the West African island of Bioko, thus creating "money plantations."

Which just goes to illustrate the wishful notion that money can grow on trees.

Credit for this article is given as follows: Copyright 1984 by PostScript (November issue) and National Geographic (November, 1984).

Harry X Boosel presents 1873 so-called dollar to ANA President Q. David Bowers in front of the coin press on which it was struck which is on permanent loan to the ANA from the United States Mint.

A.N.A. NUMISMATIC FESTIVAL & ROUNDTABLE COMING TO CHICAGO

The American Numismatic Association will be coming to Chicago September 12-14, to sponsor a Numismatic Festival and Roundtable in conjunction with our 800th meeting.

In a recent interview, Executive V.P. Edward Rochette said that the festival will begin Thursday evening, September 12 at the Midland Hotel where everyone can get acquainted over cocktails and dinner.

On Friday morning everyone will travel by bus to the Balzeckas Museum of Lithuanian Culture to view the world's largest collection of Lithuanian coins and currency, much of which was donated by Dr. Alexander M. Rackus, a Charter Member of the Chicago Coin Club. After a luncheon, the tour will continue on to the studio of Lorado Taft at the University of Chicago. Ms. Taft (1860-1936) was a noted American sculptor who designed many medals and had at least two students go on to distinguish themselves by designing commemorative coins. Dinner will be served after the tour.

The Chicago Science & Industry Museum will be toured Saturday morning. Following a lecture on their Banking & Commerce Exhibit, a luncheon will be served.

Saturday afternoon the A.N.A. will conduct a roundtable discussion which is open to everyone. This will be a unique opportunity to give input on the direction the hobby and the Association should be taking. The discussion will be chaired by the Association President and every Club member is strongly urged to attend and express his or her opinion. The evening will culminate with our 800th Meeting Banquet.

If you and your friends are interested in attending any or all of these A.N.A. affairs, you should call or write to:

American Numismatic Association
P.O. Box 2366
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Judy Stebenne
(303)632-2646

As this publicity is coming out rather late, we ask that you announce this event at every Chicago area club meeting you will be attending over the next month.

Reports cent variety

The June issue of the *Error-Variety News/Numismistake* features a report by Bill Fivaz on his discovery of a "transitional" 1857 Flying Eagle cent, with the obverse lettering found on the 1856

Del Romines continues his study of doubled die discoveries, and Don Bonser describes local error finds he has made. Publisher "Lonesome" John Devine also discusses varieties he has found.

Subscription rates to *Error-Variety News* are $12.50 annually Remittances should be sent to 3475 Old Conejo Road, C-6, Newbury Park, Calif. 91320

"I understand he's the most meticulous grader in the business!"